

EARTH FIRST!

Beltane, May 1, 1981
Volume 1, Number 5

EARTH FIRST! WILL FIND GOING TOUGH

Things must have been far too quiet on the radical environmental front. Naturally it couldn't stay that way for long, but we didn't anticipate the sudden appearance of the so-called "Earth First!" (with screamer yet) yahoos who wish to rip down the Glen Canyon Dam and replace it with miles of mud flats.

Kooks come in all shapes, sizes and aims but this drove of muleys certainly will give the respected environmental movement a bad name. The Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation -- and yes, even the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society and other groups which have fought the hard fight for a better and less polluted nation -- should seek a court injunction to ban this outfit.

Let's hope this militant organization was appearing at Glen Canyon Dam with its outrageous demands only for the publicity it would get it.

Apparently one especially active group within the "Earth First!" movement is called the "Dam Crackers," which we suppose is appropriate, although it apparently should be spelled "damn crackers" because they are intellectually bankrupt.

While their campaign isn't likely to generate much besides hostile editorials such as this you can be sure that power users of the Southwest and the Pacific Coast will offer little support. After all, were Glen Canyon to come down, so too would thousands of air conditioners, home appliances, and other necessities of daily living which make life in the desert country bearable.

If the Earth Firsters are going to rip down every dam in the country, they also will have to take on Hoover at Lake Mead, Flamingo on the Utah-Wyoming border, and a host of others from the Colorado River Basin to the Tennessee Valley.



Certainly the Earth Firsters have their work cut out for them. It will get tougher and tougher as the lights go off region by region.

Editorial
from the
Grand Junction, CO
Daily Sentinel
written by the
Western Slope Public
Interest Congress



GLEN CANYON DAM PETITIONS

Petitions for dismantling Glen Canyon Dam are already flowing in... but if we are to have any impact with our campaign, the trickle needs to become a full-fledged spring runoff flood -- of signatures that would do the old wild Colorado justice!

Please, print additional copies of the petition and get 'em signed. For inspiration, here's Tony Moore of Missoula, Montana:

"Support is good here. I've got about 100 signatures on the petitions I have. Some other people have copies. I'd like to get 1,000 before school ends. I'll take copies to the Bob Marshall Alliance benefit where I should get a few hundred more. I believe 100,000 signatures presented to a congressman would convince him that the American public doesn't think draining Lake Foul is such a crazy idea after all. But I think we need that many. Push it in the newsletter. If 100 EF'ers get 1,000 signatures apiece, we got it!"

'Nuff said. Go for it!

BESIDES PETITIONS, WE GET OTHER CORRESPONDENCE...

Dear Earth First:

WANTED: Twelve horney young male zealots who like to drink till their eyes turn red. Send money right away. Wavey Gravey for President.

Taos, NM

"The function of mythology may then be summarized: it provides a symbolic representation of projected values and empirical knowledge within a framework of belief which relates individual, group, and physical environment to the end of integration and survival."

Gary Snyder
Re Who Hunted

ELE! MELLONKEMMI
GREETINGS EARTHFRIENDS!

We have come together again after ages of silence and solitude. Our cause is timely, but our challenge lies in the dearth of our circumstance. The elder days showed to us a dire need for knowledge, vocal empathy with Gaea, most-wise parent and provider. As it was in those early times, the Earth has today tolerated our collective insult with patience, but the grave signs of disorder, disruption, dis-ease --

the language of chaos itself -- portends grave change upon us, as a wave crests and growls prior to churning impact.

But el!e!, greetings to those who would bear witness to the coming great age! Greetings to all who shall take up the banner of parent Earth-Gaea! The Earth shall be our principle reason, our emotion, our lives. Our dedication and promise shall serve to link all who share similar concern. Respect to you all! and love, and tears of victory and of frustration shared. The Earth shall be our first devotion, our singular image. And a healthy, balanced, solid image we will shape into reality, though the wave moves against us and the current sweeps us up as simple flotsam. We will learn to move as one with this force and carry out our work with collective, caring dedication.

But just what will our doctrine be? How shall the image be created? There are many views that must be considered, many individual concepts to be entered as bricks into a tower of understanding. Several views are to be set out here, but these will be a simple beginning subject to the creative scrutiny of our sympathetic companions. This shall be but the first verse of our newest Earthsong, mundane and practical on the surface, broad in scope:

- We will value no economic argument that cannot and does not consider the intrinsic worth of the balanced, healthy planet Earth. Whole-Earth physiology (ecology), health and well-being, will be the guideposts by which we consider the use and management of the resources granted to us in the beginning. The Earth shall be cared for and maintained as we would our own bodies, and only those arguments which provide for the long-term growth of the body should be accepted. The principle of economic rationality shall consider the Earth foremost, as the temple of our collective Soul, and disposition or dispensation of Earth resources shall be decided upon so long as the principle is preserved.

- It follows that ecological knowledge should serve the greatest good where all life is concerned. Yet, at present we know less about parent Earth than medieval physicians knew about the human form. Our attempt to characterize and deal with the human plague upon the Earth is reminiscent of a bleeding therapy prescribed by these early specialists out of ignorance and missight. How can we allow this gross lack to continue still? Can we not serve to correct such foolishness by re-directing our collective endeavor, by speaking out for more work, more study, especially where avarice would deny us any forum at all? Our position must encourage knowledge, must clarify our intent by setting out an overall objective in improved Earth-lore. We must speak to the hearts of our fellows with arguments of diversity, interconnection, dependency, and a long-term, holistic vision. Our strength is in our own positive image of what we shall create; personal fulfillment and life made challenging, so long as the Earth is protected and enhanced. Our home is the literal, material body for the human Oversoul.

Earthfriends, who shall love us and our precious parent if we cannot demonstrate respect for all living beings first and foremost, including our human companions? Yet how may we work toward our well-sighted vision without valuing and nurturing an internal confidence before all things? In this regard, we must work to improve our view of ourselves! By seeing ourselves first as healthy, motivated, diverse and free, then we may

elicit cooperation from empathes and newcomers. By exhibiting concern for the welfare of all sentient creatures we have shed a prickly crown of self-love; have crossed into a new realm of purpose. Whole persons, working toward personally sound foundations, and devoted justly to the Whole Earth, parent and teacher. How else can it have been designed? Know thyself, know thy family, know thy home...

• It cannot be otherwise than that we birth again the ageless Earth-religion in all that we have stated above. Our values and our philosophy have been opened for discussion: we have, in this bold action, raised the question of a new Earth ethic. Now it remains for us to define more completely this system, to bring to bear the new knowledge, the improved understanding, the skills and aptitudes of the present age -- all representing a religious synergy. Our new religion transcends all that has gone before, for we are new, we have grown. So then should our reverence be malleable.

How else should we consecrate this ethic other than to abide by the laws laid out untold ages ago? Many cultures have given us their legacy in this, and deserve our consideration where the Law has been well used: the Wicca of Anglo-Saxon tradition, the Druids, Bards and Vates of northern and central Europe. The Minoans, Pythagoreans, Egyptian cultists, Babylonians and ancient Chinese. The Zoroastrians, Taoists, Eruvians, early Christians and Egyptian monotheists. The pantheist Greeks, the Anasazi, the Athabaskans. The Megalithic Sea Peoples, Mayas, Incas, and Atlanteans. The Crystal cults, the Bear cults, the worshipers of Sun and Moon. All of these and more have served to translate the Cosmic pantheon. All of these were suited to a particular place and time. We may draw from them, may study their similarities and distinctions but we may not reproduce them. We must develop anew a system of Nature-worship, Earth and Sun devotion.

We should strive to weave together the blessings of our intuitive attraction to symbol and ritual with our sense of material truth. Ecology as a current science of Earth and humanity is also a jubilant chord of the Cosmic symphony, bringing us closer to the grand scheme that outlines and illuminates our fate. How best to blend our religious needs with scientific courage and curiosity? Through the process of visualization and guided imagination we may animate a typically lifeless natural principle. The illusion of material reality can then be made to enhance the growth of the true inner self! Though ritual, personal or cultural, these principles can be literally brought to life by our subconscious powers. An active, animate set of natural laws will be created, more nearly satisfying our emotional and spiritual aspects. With thought and direction these ideas may be made real for us. Already there are those Earthfriends among us whose lives center around this daring notion -- who may act as guides by providing inspiration and expertise in an area familiar to too few in these confusing times. No more the downtrodden, misshapen truths: our leaders and teachers deserve our support! Miriam, Robert, Diane and Cynthia are the names of but a few in these times. How best may we learn from them, fellow travellers? And you, teachers, care you to cast your lot cleanly with this bold objective? Will your independent dogmas provide callous challenge to this theme? It should not be so! There is much to share, to witness together. A blending must take place, for we are commonly specialized in a time when our challenge lies in homogeneity, androgyny, synergy. We travel as a diverse, well-

intended lot where our love for Earth and for the Ageless is unbounded. Beyond cooperation, once our purpose has been achieved, we may always return to the comfort of our individual homes. For now, let us form a cohesive whole.

There is no name for what we intend, Earthfriends. There are elements of myth, science, theology and mysticism here, but no single name to lend. We are pregnant and near term. What shall we call this brave discipline, once it appears reborn and faced with the new millennium?

For now, behold the scope of our dedication! Our planet abounds with wonder, colored and formed in numberless variations. Der Eisriesenwelt in Austria houses the largest, most fanciful ice sculptures yet known by humans. The gulf of Kotar in Yugoslavia finds a sinuous trapping of cliff-ridden inland bays and basins. The Simpson Desert of Australia shows ridge after ridge of blood-red sand, carpeted over with contrasting green shrubbery. Norway's Spitzbergen, a visual fancy. Tequendoma Falls in the Colombian Andes. California's Shasta -- "Tietjens," most sacred mountain. Mackenzie Delta, the Tetons, the Everglades. Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Monument Valley. Our legacy is beyond description. The Earth is our first love, our first concern. Our children must be imbued with an unswerving sense of responsibility and respect for Her, and a recognition of the significance of our role leads to even greater dedication. Grant understanding to our fellows but show no compromise to our forming, tangible principle. Earth first! Earth first. Gaea must live Her healthy, tumbling life, free from a dread of infestation and misdeed. As Her seed, we become ambassadors, emissaries in the final drama, and our mission is indeed grand!

Good life, good passage, and Godspeed Earthfriends!

So shall it be.

Tir Eriaur Aldaron

"Watcher, alone and ancient, friend of the Trees"

COUGAR

Walked almost fourteen hours before I came to the spring. Sole came off my right sneaker. Rock cut my foot. Gathered sage, made fire, small fire. Stirred rice in black iron pot, rice with raisins (someone dropped a box in the store). Chewed cress from the pool below the spring, ate, drank, turned over the coals, threw sand on top. Wrapped myself in blanket, dreamed. Cold, coal-gray cold. Too dark to see clearly shadows of the rocks above me. A rock moved. Lay quiet, no sound. Eyes watched, my eyes, its eyes. Could hear its breathing with my breath, its heart beating with my heart -- no difference. Its warmth came up through the thin blanket. Its belly distended with rabbit. Warm and nourished, we slept.

Morning, I searched the rocks. Saw a blue-belly doing pushups. First ant leaving the hill. Red-tail circling high. An indentation in the dust where it had lain. A few tracks, scats about one hundred yards away, half covered with sand.

Today the lion hunter came. Saw him drive up in red pickup -- dented camper on back, gun rack conspicuous. Swept the floor, averted my eyes from the dogs. I knew their hunger. Saw him in his stained buckskin vest, tight over belly, knife on sagging belt. Saw him stop, speak to Joe. Saw Joe's thumb point my way. Kept my head down, swept. Smelled him coming. Heard his splay-footed tread through the open door. "Man out there says you know these hills. Any lions? I got a customer willing to pay good to shoot lion." Didn't answer right off. He spat his juice on my floor. Straightened up, held the broom easy. "You're wasting your time; it's been years since anyone seen lion in this country." He turned, spat again, drove off. Saw him leave. Swept sage dust over the brown spots. We fed.

Marjorie Sill
Reno, NV

NASA EXTINGUISHES SPARROW

The US Fish and Wildlife Service announced in December of 1980 that no known female Dusky Seaside Sparrows existed any longer in the wild. Only one male was known. The sparrow was wiped out by a National Aeronautics and Space Administration mosquito control program for the marshlands near Cape Kennedy that were the sparrow's only habitat.

This certainly puts NASA in the running for the EARTH FIRST! Hubris of the Year award.

Yes, I walk masked, would have strange things aligned
in my own burial vault, but dare not say it.
Yes, I belong to that most ancient brotherhood
not often named because we once were stoned
or burned, or hanged, or now
suffer the ostracism of the seeming learned.
We are not welcome among men,
see in the dark, wait for the ice. I think, faroff,
our arts may well be practiced once again."

Loren Eiseley
The Innocent Assassins

MOAB -- JULY 4

Don't forget the EARTH FIRST! Round River Rendezvous at Moab, Utah, on the Fourth of July. Details, including a map to the rally site, etc., will be sent out in a special mailing in late May. Watch for it and plan to attend (bring your crazy friends).

If you'd like to help organize the RRR or act as a car pool coordinator for your area, contact Dave Foreman.



QUOTATIONS FROM SECRETARY WATT

(Ed. Note: believe it or not, dear ones, the following are actual quotes from Secretary of Interior James "Rape n' Run" Watt's speech to the National Park Concessioners in Washington, DC, on March 9, 1981. From the horse's ass itself. No matter how hard to believe they are not the witty creations of the Masked Mason. EARTH FIRST!, given this wonderful resource, can't help but plan to do a booklet, "Quotations from Secretary Watt" with these and other priceless pearls from ol' Rape n' Run's tongue. No, the booklet will not be red like Mao's, but sort of yellowgreenishbrown -- the color of shit. Please send any good quotes by Watt to EFi for inclusion. And now, the man who needs no introduction: Rape n' Run Watt, hisself:)

- I will err on the side of public use versus preservation.
- We want to eliminate those areas which are degrading to the National Park System.
- I do not believe the National Park Service should run urban parks.
- We have put a moratorium on Federal acquisition.
- How are we going to properly manage the parks?...We need an aggressive program with the private entrepreneurs who are willing to invest and manage resources in the National Park Service for people. That is our commitment.
- We mean business, and when you read the press you're going to find that I can be cold and calculating and indeed I can.
- We're gonna get ahold of it. We're gonna do dramatic things and you'll see some further announcements. I'm told today the magic day is May 21st, isn't it -- because you can't move some career people until after 120 days once you've been sworn in.
- We have tremendous biases. We have a bias for private enterprise. We believe concessioners can do the job.
- I make lots of mistakes, cause I make a lot of decisions. But we're in a hurry and we're willing to take risks.
- We're not going to have much money coming to Alaska from the National Park Service or the other agencies.
- I went down in September on the Grand Canyon Colorado River and the test, of course, as all of you are familiar, is whether we ought to keep the motors on those rafts or not. The first day was spectacular. I'll tell you it was an exciting thrilling day. The second day started to get a little tedious, but the third day I wanted bigger motors to move that raft out. There is no way you could get me on an oar-powered raft on that river -- I'll guarantee you that. On the fourth day we were praying for helicopters and they came.
- You folks will quickly understand why I bring so much controversy and flack. I don't like to paddle and I don't like to walk.
- It's time for a new beginning and the private enterprise system must be looked to for rejuvenation and enthusiasm as we try to make the parks more accessible and usable for the people.

(Really, no shit, Watt said all this!)

FLASH! Rocky Mountain magazine is doing an article on EARTH FIRST! for their July issue. Slides of the Glen Canyon incident are urgently needed. (They'll be returned.) This is your big chance! Send your slides to Dave Foreman as soon as possible.

Under your Milky Way
And slow-revolving Bear,
Frogs from the alder-thicket pray
In terror of the judgement day,
Loud with repentance there.

The log they crowned as king
Grew sodden, lurched and sank.
Dark waters bubble from the spring,
An owl floats by on silent wing,
They invoke you from each bank.

At dawn you shall appear,
A gaunt, red-wattled crane,
She whom they know too well to fear,
Lunging your beak down like a spear
To fetch them home again.

Robert Graves
"The White Goddess"

AND FROM SALT LAKE CITY:

"Did you know that the Sunday after the 'crack' over three hundred rangers were at the damn for a law endorcement seminar. They were generally pissed about the whole thing and were badmouthing Abbey. They believed he organized the whole thing. The FBI spent Saturday and Sunday dusting the entire crack for finger prints. Guess they gotta have something to do..."

EARTH FIRST! REGIONAL CONTACTS

To better coordinate EARTH FIRST! throughout the United States, we are designating regional contacts in different parts of the country. Regional contacts are the people to talk to for information about EF!, and they will coordinate the formation of local groups and projects. To be a regional contact (and we want them in every part of the country), you must be willing to have your name, address, and telephone number listed in the newsletter. You may use a phony name if you prefer. Regional contacts will also represent EF! locally (here's your chance to get in the paper!). To be a regional contact, get in touch with Foreman or Morgan.

Current EF! regional contacts are:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--|
| NEW ENGLAND | - Gary Lawless | P.O. Box 186, Brunswick, ME 04011 (207) 729-5083 |
| VIRGINIA | - Paul Bratton | Box 111A, Deerfield, VA 24432 |
| ALASKA | - Paul Bratton | Talkeetna, AK 99676 |
| ARKANSAS/SE | - Paul Means | 814 North Pine, Little Rock, AR 72205 |
| NEW MEXICO | - Dave Foreman | 1802 Sun Court, Rio Rancho, NM 87124 (505) 898-5468 |
| SW COLORADO | - Art Goodtimes | Box F, Placerville, CO 81430 (303) 728-4748 |
| CENTRAL & N COLORADO | - Susan Morgan | P.O. Box 536, Breckenridge, CO 80424 (303) 453-2669 |
| NW WYOMING | - Howie Wolke | P.O. Box 2348, Jackson, WY 83001 (307) 733-5343 |
| MONTANA | - Tony Moore | 316 East Spruce, #2, Missoula, MT 59801 |

This may appear as an attempt to get organized (gaspl!), but actually we are just trying to decentralize some.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE PARK SERVICE!

"The National Park Service was born in an age of courage and strong convictions. When Congress voted to establish the agency in 1916, it recognized that not even imminent commitment to a world war should stop a nation from conserving its natural resources..."

"...When a lumber company disregarded his order to dismantle its mill and depart the bounds of Glacier National Park, Mather personally headed a brigade that exploded the mill with thirteen charges of TNT."

"National Parks"
February, 1981, P 16

MISS LONELY HEARTS

Have you heard about Ronnie Ray-Guns "highly qualified" appointment as head of the Environmental Protection Agency? Word has it that Anne Gorsuch, none other, and, guess who, but Bob Burford of Bureau of Land Management fame are an item... It seems to be common knowledge that this lovey twosome are substantially more than "close associates" and are both getting divorced to preserve this match!

Well, I can't divulge my source, of course, (he he), but that's what I've been hearing!

Colorado

WE ARE
DIGGING UNDERGROUND
FINANCIALLY.

PLEASE SEND ALL FUTURE \$\$\$
IN THE FORM OF CASH OR
MONEY ORDERS.

THANKS!
EF!

CLUNK



THIS LAND IS MY LAND. THIS LAND IS OUR LAND.
FROM COAL DEPOSITS TO THE COPPER DEPOSITS;
FROM NUCLEAR POWER TO OFF-SHORE DRILLING.